Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 15, 2019—10:30 am

TAG
Tuesday Afternoon Group
Tuesday, December 17—11:30 am
Christmas Music Program
Ham Balls and Handbells, with a side of Pipes! The TAG program for this month features Christmas music played by organist Heather Cooper. As a special bonus, the newly formed Christ Church Ringers will ring the handbells on the beloved carol "Ding Dong Merrily On High."

We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship and greeting friends, followed by carol singing at 11:45 a.m., and lunch at noon. The program begins at approximately 12:45 p.m. and concludes by about 1:30 p.m. Despite the special meal and program, the cost is still only $7.00. Please sign up no later than Sunday, December 15 to help make sure we make enough food for this very popular event.

The light shines in the darkness... John 1:5

The Longest Night
A service of healing and hope in the midst of Christmas
Monday, December 23rd at 5:15 pm

Christmas Lessons & Carols
Combined Worship Service
Sunday, December 29, 2019
10:30 am
No 8:00 am service
There will be no Children’s Sunday

EPIPHANY MADRIGAL FEAST
Saturday, January 4, 2020
in Westminster Hall
Doors open at five o’clock
The Feast begins at half past five
featuring
Firestone High School Madrigal Singers
Tickets are $25 for Adults; $10 for Children
Tickets available online and in the Church office.
Proceeds from this event benefit the Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry of Christ Church.

Christmas Eve Services
6:30 pm
Family Worship in the Sanctuary

Songs & Stories

9:30 pm
Broadcast Live on 640 WHLO

Carolling to our Homebound
COME JOIN US!
Sunday, December 22, 2019 following 10:30 am service
Pastor’s Notes

Gosh, it’s that time of year when we confuse the things of Advent with this bizarre season that is commonly called Christmastime. I love Christmas. I don’t love Christmas. I love Christmas. I don’t love Christmas. I suffer from Christmas confusion. Some years Christmas is a wonderful, wild, and exhilarating ride; a season come unhinged with mystery, joy, and deep meaning. Other years... not so much. Perhaps it’s genetic. Maybe I’m just very unique and suffer from a one-of-a-kind affliction. Maybe others, maybe many others, suffer alongside me but in silence.

Some years the overload is unbearable. I’m not complaining about my work, or the multiplication of event planning and execution. I’m talking about the commercialization of the hallowed. I’m talking about the utterly ridiculous elongation of what started as a one day remembrance. I’m talking about the relentless happiness and good-will we are expected to demonstrate on command. I’m talking about the trivialization of meaning that has relegated the holy and sacred to the third-string sideline.

I remember the complaints uttered the year the Worship Ministry decided to start serving Eucharist at the 10:00 Christmas Eve worship service. The comments spoke volumes. “My (grown) kid only comes to church on Christmas Eve. She doesn’t want to sit through communion!” “Communion is all about the cross and death. Not on Christmas Eve! (a very dubious theological conclusion!!)” Then there was the ever-popular, “A lot of guests come on Christmas Eve. It will make them feel uncomfortable. They’ll feel awkward.” Finally, “Who will we get to prepare and serve? It’s Christmas Eve (this, it turns out, has never really been a problem)!” I’ve realized I suffer the worst of Christmas when I focus on the many ways this remembrance has been co-opted by the secular, and our need to make it so inclusive and invitational that I lose the true meaning and purpose.

What will this year bring for Pastor Dave? (I write this on November 21st.) Will I love Christmas 2019 or will I not love Christmas 2019. I’ve decided to be much more proactive this Advent. I have found there are certain words that have power to shape and form the ideas and ideals of this season of preparation...words that evoke the mystery, joy, and deep meaning the birth of the Christ child is meant to awaken within us. I’m adding these words to my daily morning devotion time. I’m committed to reading them again in the afternoon and the evening. I will read them slowly, with intention. Then I will sit in silence and let these words weave themselves through my spirit. Then I will pray the words. Perhaps you would join me in this discipline?

The words? They are familiar enough.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)

I wish you a blessed Advent,

Pastor Dave

In this season of blessings, joy, and the light brought into this world by a little baby, the Spirit & Space Team asks you to consider our invitation to His table of grace.

Our congregation has already generously pledged to the Gather Us In Campaign a bountiful $2,101,011 toward our goal of $2.5 million. In October we were invited to consider increasing our pledge to this Campaign by adding a “fourth year” of giving, or by making an additional one-time gift. As of November 22, 2019, we have received $1,218,835 in increased pledges for a total pledged amount of $2,222,846. We are, oh, so close!

We hope to accomplish all renovations necessary to attain our grand vision of invitation, accessibility, hospitality and engaging worship space experience, but may be required to limit our construction options if funding falls short.

If you haven’t already done so, please prayerfully consider making an initial or an additional Gather Us In commitment BY THE END OF DECEMBER. Knowing the exact amount of pledged funds with which we have to work, will enable the Spirit & Space Team to finalize the list of specified renovations for our architects and general contractor.

And remember, actual contributions must be received in the church office by the end of the year in order to count toward your 2019 charitable tax deduction or your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Use the donation tools available at http://www.cantoncpc.org; contact the church office for a Gather Us In pledge card; or call Don Weltlich (330) 456-8113 for additional information and guidance.

Peace to you all!
Sunday Morning 
Adult Classes
9:15-10:15 a.m.

Coffee & Conversations Classes 
meets in the Pine Room.

The Intergenerational Class meets in the Upper Room. 
Every week is a unique discussion. Together we will seek to 
know God’s will and wisdom. Please speak with Mike 
Ophardt if you have any questions about this class.

The Parlor Class continues to study from the Present 
Word. 12/1—David Worships God in Jerusalem, led by 
Jim Smith; 12/8—A Heart Filled with Gratitude, led by 
Steve Patterson; 12/15—Building God’s House, led by 
Fred Bohse; 12/22—The Lord with You, led by Jack 
Ketterer; 12/29—David’s Prayer, led by Les Morgan.

Westminster Class continues to ask the questions of 
faith as we seek to understand God. See you at 9:15 am 
Sunday mornings!

December 1 & 8—The Triune God, led by Pastor 
Michael
December 15 & 22—The Providence of God and the 
Mystery of Evil, led by Pastor Michael.

The Hat and Mitten Tree is up through 
December 8.

We accept all sizes of hats and mittens. All hands, 
both big and small, male and female get cold. Let’s 
have a “warm hands winter.” All of the donations go to 
Pine Ridge and our own Food, Clothing and Prayer Ministry.

Holiday Office/Building Hours
In observance of the Christmas and New Year Holiday, 
the Church office and Building Hours will be as follows:

Tuesday, December 24—Office Closed All Day 
Building Open for Evening Services 
Wednesday, December 25—Office/Building Closed All Day 
Tuesday, December 31—Office/Building Closed All Day 
Wednesday, January 1—Office/Building Closed All Day

2020 Offering Envelopes
If you requested envelopes, you will 
find them beginning December 15 in 
alphabetical order on the table in 
Cloister Hall. If you do not find 
envelopes with your name, and 
would like to receive them, please 
call the church office or print your 
name on the pad found on the table. 
If you are not able to pick up your 
envelopes, please call the church 
office, and we will gladly mail them 
out to you.

REMINDER: The 2020 Per Capita Communicant Apportionment is set at $30.56 per member, with the General Assembly 
receiving 8.95, Synod $3.25, and the Presbytery $18.36. Your assistance in donating to help defray the cost to the church 
will be greatly appreciated. Please indicate on your check for the 2020 apportionment.

FINANCIAL NOTES

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<th>YTD 10/31/19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue Pledges</td>
<td>203,569</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trusts &amp; Endowments</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<td>Operating Expenses</td>
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This reporting reflects the General and Camp Funds from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. 
PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PLEDGE CURRENT. THANK YOU!

2019 Charitable Contribution Deduction:

Please remember that all cash donations and/or stock transfers must be delivered 
to the Church Financial Office by December 31, 2019, in order to claim them as a 
charitable contribution deduction on your 2019 tax returns. Checks placed in the 
Church offering on the first Sunday in 2020 will not qualify for a charitable 
contribution deduction in 2019, even if the check is postmarked to 2019 or was 
actually written in 2019.

When contributing stock, please send a letter of direction and intent to Merrill 
Lynch and also a copy to myself in the church office.

Thank you,
Donald Weltlich

STEWARDSHIP—October

<table>
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<th>Oct.—19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Attendance</td>
<td>217</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund Income</td>
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<td>Monthly Net + / -</td>
<td>(11,017)</td>
<td>(25,826)</td>
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I want to thank you all for the beautiful birthday greeting. Enjoyed seeing signatures of old friends and names of some I recognize from the Tydings. ~ Joyce Stanforth

Thank you for the card sent to me from members of CPC. I appreciate the visits by David, Eldon, church members, phone calls and cards. The prayers and concerns are a great comfort to me in my journey to better health from my stroke. ~ Sincerely, Bill Rownd

Christ Church Friends,

I was so blessed upon receiving the birthday card from my friends at Christ Church. I am able to attend only every other Sunday since moving into retirement in Columbus, Ohio, a couple years ago. ~ “Van” Dalton Van Valkenburg

Many thanks to Marna Holcomb for donating the evergreens used in the Church’s outside swags every year.

Special thank you from the youth group for your generous support of our first Care Package Project for young people in the first four years after high school. We were so excited to receive plenty of goodies for the boxes and enough money to cover shipping costs. We would also like to thank the Discipleship Ministry for contributing the books and the Mission Ministry for a significant financial donation towards shipping costs. Even our youngest members made bookmarks to include. Your thoughtfulness will be appreciated by the recipients! Care Packages will be sent out in the first week of December. We hope to continue this project in the future. Thank you so much!

Thank you to all those who contributed to camp over this year. Whether you gave to the auction, contributed to the 60 for 60 Endowment Fund, supported our wish list, volunteered time, or prayed for the work done at Wakonda—THANK YOU!! This is your camp, doing God’s work!

We are excited to participate in this program with Habitat for Humanity. Over 30 of our FCP friends have already used these Vouchers to help them with household items or furniture. Hope ReStored needs our donations to stock their warehouse— I hope that you will consider our partnership with them when you have unwanted items. If you have questions, please call Lorraine Murphy at 330-495-8963.

What is Hope ReStored?

Creating home through simple home furnishings.

Hope ReStored is a collaborative effort between our church and Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Canton. As people throughout our community partner with our church for assistance, there may come a time when they need help acquiring modest furniture and household items due to difficult situations.

As a Hope ReStored partner, we’re able to provide eligible low-to-moderate income individuals with free vouchers to shop for the items they need with dignity at ReStore in Canton.

Christ Presbyterian Church is looking for volunteers!

We’re looking for your help in delivering purchased items at ReStore to those without reliable transport.

Contact Lorraine Murphy at 330-495-8963

Hope ReStored
restoreeco.org/hope

You can help by donating items to ReStore. Here’s how:

- Drop off your donation at ReStore in Canton
- Schedule FREE donation pickup at restoreeco.org
- Call ReStore donation hotline at 330-915-5929
- However you donate, your donation is tax deductible.

Donate these items:

- Mattresses
- Box Springs
- Bed Frames
- Beds
- Sofas
- Love Seats
- Chairs
- Recliners
- Dining Tables
- Dining Chairs
- Night Stands
- End Tables
- Coffee Tables
- Lamps
- Microwaves
- Desks
- Home Goods

More at restoreeco.org!
On Sunday, December 29, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. We need several people to help take down the trees, wreaths, garland, and bows. This will take place after the 10:30 am worship service. The more helpers we have, the faster the task is completed. A simple meal will be provided. Please sign up in Cloister Hall or online if you can help.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

This Christmas, the CPC Children, Youth and Family Ministry will once again be adopting a family from our Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry that is caring for many children from infant through elementary school. Details on the children and their needs will be available in the lower level beginning December 1 and gifts will be due December 15th so that they can be delivered before Christmas. Please prayerfully consider if your family can make helping this family part of your Christmas giving this year. Thank you.

Thank you to all who donated mac-and-cheese to help with the Thanksgiving baskets Project. Nearly 1200 families received a Thanksgiving basket which couldn't have happened without the support of the many churches and civic groups that give so generously.

Please Note:
December 29 & January 5
Combined Worship at 10:30 am
No 8:00 am Worship
& No 9:15 Sunday School for Children

Upcoming Worship Notes from the Music Ministry

Friends in Christ,

As Advent approaches, the Music Ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church becomes busier than ever. Heather and I have enjoyed the transition into our new leadership roles and have been emboldened by the support of all surrounding us, from the church staff and elders to the volunteers of all ages creating beautiful music in celebration of our Creator God. The kind sentiments of congregants have also meant a lot to us; know that we are grateful to be here and are honored to serve this community.

Many of our worship traditions will sustain through the leadership transition, including some rather new ones. One such tradition is the “O Antiphons” service for Advent, a service sculpted and cultivated by our dear friend, David Kienzle. This is largely a Lessons and Carols service built around seven ancient prayers assembled by the Roman church in the 8th century. Each petition reflects the prophetic words of the Old Testament and how the anticipated coming of Christ serves as the Godly answer to those petitions.

This service of expectation will be held at the 10:30 service on December 15. We look forward to sharing Word and Song as we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel.

Throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will also present musical offerings by our Children’s Choir and Handbell Choir. We are continually seeking to provide new means by which members of this church community may share more directly in the worship of God through music. Your thoughts and considerations are always welcome.

Blessings in Christ,
Britt Cooper

Have you remembered your church in your will?

Christ Church urges you to make a plan for yourself and when you do, to please remember your church in it. You can leave a set amount or a tithe (for example, 10% of your estate). If you already have a will, you can amend it with a call to your attorney. For questions about making a bequest to CPC, feel free to contact any member of the Endowment Ministry (Jack Burnquist, Roger Gray, Teresa Houston, Linda Norton, or Steve Stocker).
Session Notes
November 19, 2019

Our evening began with prayer. We approved the minutes from our prior meeting as well as the Clerk’s Report. Treasurer TJ Hon reviewed the Finance Report while we ate dinner. TJ reported that, overall, we are in a good position.

Actions included:

• Recommending a review of the Parkinson Fund and its intent to support preparation for ministry.
• Approving a Christmas Bonus for each CPC employee.
• Approving the new mission statement for the Music Ministry.
• Approving the selection of Cyber Shift Technologies, LLC as the provider of an updated website for the amount quoted.
• Approved a motion to seek a grant from Belden Brick Foundation to support Spirit and Space as well as others that may be appropriate for other missions and ministries.

Other discussions and reports:

• Habitat for Humanity is planning a Faith Build project for 2020 and we anticipate supporting this project.
• Via email, Kathryn Ophardt shared her plans to return to Mexico in the summer of 2020 to serve as Chaplain. Session considered ways we might encourage her in commitment to this ministry and support her in her continued seminary studies.
• Elder Jerry Norton reported on Spirit and Space progress. Planning, design and costs continue to be refined. The elevator is the long lead item and work is expected to begin in March.
• Pastor Michael provided an update on activities for the Bicentennial Celebration. He expressed his joy in receiving a grant for his entire family to go to Chatauqua in 2020. He will be participating in the Interfaith Celebration on Tuesday 11/26/2019 at St. George Romanian Catholic Church.

• Pastor Ben shared that the annual auction for Camp Wakonda raised more than $16,000 in addition to the more than $5,000 raised for the “60 for 60” endowment campaign. This brings the “60 for 60” total to over $10,000 making the camp eligible to receive two $10,000 challenge grants offered by camp alumni. Pastor Ben attended a conference of The Great Gathering Outdoor Ministries Connection, an ecumenical group of mainline denominational camp and retreat associations. He reported on a number of lessons learned that he will be able to immediately apply in his role leading Camp Wakonda.

• Pastor Dave is already back in full-swing since returning from surgery and provided an update on Mission Ministry, Personnel Ministry, and Property Ministry. He also provided a status update on the sale of Heritage House. Also, he shared some observations of the changing nature of funeral planning within our culture. We are learning how to adopt to meet new needs leading families to a meaningful Service of the Resurrection.

Our meeting ended with worship, Elder Jerry Norton, preaching, communion, and prayers for specific members and friends of the congregation.

Submitted by Lori Sproul
**Sunday Morning Schedule**
- 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
- 9:00-9:15 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal—Chapel
- 9:15 am Children & Adult Classes

**Monday Schedule**
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

**Tuesday Schedule**
- 9:30 am Bible Study—Parlor
- 11:15-12:15 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Wednesday Schedule**
- 7:30 am Men’s Bible Study—West. Hall

**Thursday Schedule**
- 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study—Parlor
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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**Sunday, 12/1—Communion**
- 5:00-7:30 pm Family Event—Westminster Hall
- 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group—Youth Room

**Wednesday, 12/4**
- 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision—Parlor
- 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting—Pine Room

**Thursday, 12/5**
- 1:30 pm Alzheimer’s Support Group—Parlor

**Friday, 12/6**
- 10:30 am Small Group—Parlor

**Saturday, 12/7**
- 9:00 am—2:00 pm Candy Making—Kitchen
- 10:00 am Presbytery Meeting—College of Wooster

**Monday, 12/9**
- 12:00 pm Personnel Ministry—Parlor
- 4:00 pm Property Meeting—Parlor

**Tuesday, 12/10**
- 5:30 pm Camp Ministry Meeting—Parlor

**Wednesday, 12/11**
- 8:00 am Food Ministry
- 10:00 am Spirit & Space Communication Committee—Parlor
- 4:30 pm Worship Ministry—Parlor
- 6:30 pm Mission Ministry—Stark County Main Library

**Saturday, 12/14**
- 8:30-10:00 am Food Ministry Breakfast

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**Sunday, 12/15—Christmas Joy Offering received**
- 10:30 am Advent Lessons & Carols
- 12:00-1:00 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal

**Tuesday, 12/17**
- 8:00-11:30 am Grace Ministries—Pine Room
- 11:30 am TAG Luncheon & Program—Westminster Hall
- 6:00 pm Session Dinner/Meeting—Parlor

**Wednesday, 12/18—TYDINGS DEADLINE**
- 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision—Parlor

**Friday, 12/20**
- 10:30 am Small Group—Parlor

**Sunday, 12/22**
- 12:00 pm Caroling (Light Lunch)

**Monday, 12/23**
- 5:15 pm Longest Night Service—Chapel

**Tuesday, 12/24—Church Office Closed All Day**
- 6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary
- 9:30 pm Special Music—Sanctuary
- 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sanctuary

**Wednesday, 12/25—Merry Christmas—Church Building Closed**

**Sunday, 12/29—Combined Worship at 10:30 am**
- 10:30 am Christmas Lessons & Carols
- 11:45 am De-Greening of Church

**Tuesday, 12/31—Church Office/Building Closed All Day**

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<tr>
<th>Liturgists:</th>
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<th>Ushers:</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Jon Peterson</td>
<td>Jack Burnquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Randy Bailey</td>
<td>Shawn Campbell</td>
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<td>12/15</td>
<td>Bette Maier</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/29</td>
<td>Jerry Norton</td>
<td>Jack Burnquist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Page 7**
Return Service Requested

The Church is charged for every returned Newsletter. If you have moved, or changed a seasonal address, please notify the church office. Thank you.

To be added to the Tydings email list or to submit an article for Tydings, please email dnavc@cantonpc.org no later than Wednesday, December 18, 2019.

Sunday Youth Events

Sunday, December 1st—Wonders of His Love: An Advent Family Night Event
5-7:00 PM in Westminster Hall
Activities for all ages, including a scavenger hunt and hang out time in the youth room, especially for our 6-12th graders.
Bring a side dish to share.

Saturday, December 7th—Mission West Candy Making
12:00 PM-2:00 PM in the kitchen
Your help will support the Mission West trip.

Sunday, December 15th—Christmas movie night
5-7:30PM
Wear comfy clothes or pajamas and enjoy pizza, popcorn, hot chocolate, and a favorite Christmas movie!

Sunday, December 22nd—Gingerbread House Making Contest
6-7:30PM in the Youth Room
A little friendly competition and general merriment!

Sunday, December 29th
No Meeting—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!